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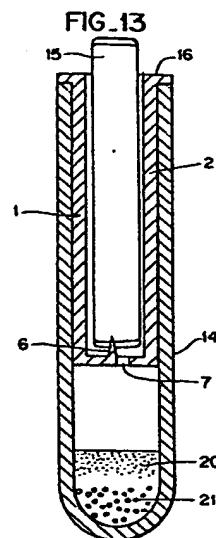
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⑤⁴ A test blood gathering equipment.

⑤⁷ A test blood gathering equipment (1) according to the present invention is provided within a tube (2) with a means (6) to break a segment tube when the segment tube holding a blood to be tested is inserted into the tube (2).



EP 0 350 792 A1

A TEST BLOOD GATHERING EQUIPMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(Field of the invention)

The present invention relates to a test blood gathering equipment to be used to testings of the blood such as blood crossmatch or virus test to be operated prior to blood transfusion.

(Description of the prior art)

For transfusing the gathered blood from a blood donor to a patient, some kinds of blood test are carried out as to whether or not the donor's blood is suitable to the patient, or whether the gathered blood is infected with virus or not.

In general, a soft plastic bag called as a blood bag is used for gathering the blood from the donor. The blood bag is connected to a bendable blood induction tube. For collecting the blood, a needle supported at the end portion of a tube is penetrated into the donor's vein. When the blood reaches up to a determined amount, the needle is drawn out from the donor and the blood induction tube is sealed with heat at its end portion. The induction tube is filled with the donor's blood, and for testing the blood, the heat-sealed part is cut. The tube which has been cut at the determined length and sealed at the both ends is called as a segment tube.

Examples of the blood crossmatch now in use with the segment tube are as follows.

(1) The segment tube is cut at its end to move the blood to a test tube.

(2) The test tube holding the blood is effected with centrifugal force at 3000 rpm and for 5 minutes to separate into packed red cell and blood plasma, and the blood plasma is gathered in another test tube (the separated blood plasma is subjected to the blood crossmatch or the virus test by the other way, but it is not now referred to).

The remaining packed red cell is washed once to third with a physiological saline salt solution, and the last remaining packed red cell of 0.2 ml is added with the salt solution of 9.8 ml to produce a resuspended red cell of 2%.

(3) The blood serum of two drops is taken from the patient and collected to another test tube and the 2% resuspended red cell of one drop is added into the blood serum.

(4) Instantly, the above material is subjected to the centrifugal treatment at 1000 to 1500 rpm for 1 minute for judging if clot of blood or hemolysis is

formed, or not.

(5) Further, the above test tube is added with a 5% bromelin solution of one drop, and is left for 15 minutes at room temperatures and operated as the above (4).

(6) In case of neither blood condensation nor blood coagulation, it is judged as suitable to the patient.

However, when the blood held in the segment tube is moved to the test tube and since its end portion is cut with such as scissors there is a danger of the virus infection in that the blood contacts the operator or the scissors. As the scissors should be every time disinfected with alcohol, the operation is troublesome.

It is an object of the invention to provide a test blood gathering equipment in which the segment tube may be easily opened without touching of the blood to the operator at his hand or causing dangers as the virus infection.

It is another object of the invention to provide a test blood gathering equipment in which the blood to be tested flowing from the segment tube may be moved to the test tube without touching the operator's hand.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a test blood gathering equipment in which the blood stored in the tube from the segment tube is directly subjected to the centrifugal treatment, without moving to the test tube, so as to extract the packed red cell.

Other objects and features of the invention will be apparent from following description.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is to provide a test blood gathering equipment where the tube is equipped with a breaking means of the segment tube, and when the segment tube filled with the blood is inserted therinto, it is easily opened by the breaking means, and the blood flowing from the segment tube runs into the test tube via an opening formed at the bottom of the tube.

Further, the invention is to provide a test blood gathering equipment where the tube is equipped with a breaking means of the segment tube, and when the segment tube filled with the blood is inserted therinto, it is easily opened by the breaking means, and the blood within the segment tube is stored in the tube without splashing outside of the tube.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION FO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 through Fig. 9 show embodiments of the invention, where each (a) is a cross sectional view along a vertical direction (A - A), and each (b) is a plan view;

Fig.10 is an outlined cross sectional view showing use of the embodiment of Fig. 9;

Fig.11 and Fig.12 show another embodiment of the invention, where each (a) is a cross sectional view along a vertical direction (A - A), and each (b) is a plan view;

Fig.13 is an outlined cross sectional view showing use of the embodiment of Fig. 1;

Fig.14 and Fig.15 show further embodiments of the invention, where each (a) is a cross sectional view along a vertical direction (A - A), and each (b) is a plan view;

Fig.16 and Fig.17 show still further embodiments of the invention, where each (a) is a cross sectional view along a vertical direction (A - A), and each (b) is a plan view; and

Fig.18 is an outlined view showing use of the embodiment of Fig.16.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 shows one embodiment of the test blood gathering equipment of the invention.

The test blood gathering equipment 1 has a tube 2 made of a hard or half hard plastics with a space 3 enough to hold the segment tube filling the blood to be tested.

The tube 2 is circular in cross section of the horizontal direction but may be elliptic.

The tube 2 has an opening 4 at an upper part, and is projected with a piercing needle 6 from a bottom 5, by which a hole 7 is formed for flowing the test blood.

The bottom 5 may be formed as a part of the tube 2, or may be attached with an independent one.

The piercing needle 6 may be formed integrally with the bottom 5, otherwise allowed to fix a needle 6a within a hole 8a formed in a bottom 5a. The piercing needle 6a may be the same quality as the bottom 5a or a metal as stainless steel.

In the embodiment shown in Fig.3, a groove 9b is formed in length along the side of a piercing needle 6b, and the blood follows the groove 9b and drops downward. According to this embodiment, the groove 9a serves as the flowing hole 7 or 7a of Fig. 1 or 2.

Test blood gathering means 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g shown in Fig. 4 to Fig. 9 have cutting edges 10c, 10d, 10e, 10f, 10g as sharp razor edges.

The test blood gathering equipment 1c of Fig. 4 is formed with grooves 18c at the lower part of

an inner wall of the tube 2c, and a breaking piece 10c is inserted thereinto. This embodiment omits a bottom, and the tube 2c opens to serve as a flowing hole 7c. The breaking piece 10c may be one part of the tube 2c.

In the test blood gathering equipment 1d of Fig. 5, the tube 2d is formed with a bottom 5d which is centrally opened with a flowing hole 7d and is secured with a breaking piece 10d.

Fig. 6 shows a modification of that of Fig. 5, and as is seen from (b) of the same, a horizontally cross sectional shape of the tube 2d-1 is elliptic, having a long diameter and a short diameter, in which a breaking piece 10d-1 is inserted into grooves 18d-1 at the lower part of the inner wall transversely with the long diameter.

In such a manner, when the segment tube 15 is put into the tube 2d-1 (the both end portions of the segment tube are sealed by crashing and shaped in ellipticity), the elliptic end portion of the segment tube 15 can be made agree to the large diameter of the tube 2d-1. Since the end portion of the segment tube 15 contacts the breaking piece 10d-1 in right angle, the tube 15 can be broken exactly and easily.

The test blood gathering equipment 1e of Fig. 7 is provided with a plurality of breaking pieces 10e, 10e at the lower part of the inner wall of the tube 2e, and is formed with a hole 7e for flowing the blood to be tested.

The test blood gathering equipment 1f of Fig. 8 is downward projected with an attaching part 13 as one part of the bottom 5f or by means of a securing means, and a breaking piece 10f is inserted into a groove 13a formed in the attaching part 13 and fixed by means of a high frequency melting with heating. The bottom 5f is formed with blood flowing holes 7f symmetrically around the breaking piece 10f.

The test blood gathering equipment of Fig. 9 is attached with a breaking piece 10g at the middle part of the tube 2g. As an example of providing the breaking piece 10g, grooves 18g are formed vertically from the upper part of the inner wall to the middle part of the tube 2g, and the breaking piece 10g is inserted in the grooves 18g and secured at the middle part of the tube 2g. A bottom 5g is centrally formed with a blood flowing hole 7g.

Fig.10 shows the use of the embodiment of Fig. 9. The breaking piece 10g is provided at the middle part of the tube 2g, thereby to break the segment tube 15 vertically, so that the broken area may be enlarged. Therefore, the blood in the segment tube 15 instantly flows out of the tube and drops smoothly into the test tube. If it is subjected to the centrifugal treatment, the blood is separated into the blood plasma and the packed red cell without damaging the blood component.

The test blood gathering equipment 1h of Fig.11 is opened with cutouts 11h, 11h vertically in the both sides of the tube 2h so that the segment tube can be supported with fingers by getting into the cutouts. Thus, the tube can be pierced at its lower end by the needle 6h exactly.

In the test blood gathering equipment 1i of Fig.12, the middle part 12i of a tube 2i is composed with a soft tube or a bellow-shaped elastic tube, and the upper part and the lower part of the tube are composed with hard or half hard plastics. According to this embodiment, the segment supported within the tube 2i is held by the fingers indirectly at the outside of the middle part 12i, so that the lower part of the segment tube is pierced by a needle 6i.

A further explanation will be made to use of the test blood gathering equipment, referring to the equipment shown in Fig. 1.

As shown in fig.13, the test blood gathering equipment 1 is inserted into the test tube 14, and the segment tube 15 filled with the test blood is housed into the tube 2 and is pushed down. The segment tube 15 is thus broken at its lower part by the piercing needle, and the blood in the segment tube 15 runs out into the tube 2 and into the test tube 14 via the hole 7.

When the blood within the segment tube 15 all flows into the test tube 14, it is operated with the centrifugal treatment under the foregoing conditions and separated into the blood plasma 20 and the packed red cell 21. The blood plasma 20 is moved from the test tube 14 to the other test tube, and is tested such as the blood crossmatch, the virus test and so on in the conventional sequences.

The segment tube 15 is not necessarily pushed down to the tube 2. That is, since the centrifugal force is given to the bottom of the test tube 14, the segment tube 15 within the tube 2 is pressed to the lower part of the tube 2 due to the centrifugal force, and the segment tube 15 is broken at its lower part by the piercing needle 6.

In the invention, the tube 2 is formed at its upper part with a brim 16 serving as a stopper by contacting the upper circumference of the test tube 14. The inner diameter of the tube 2 is made almost equal to the outer diameter of the segment tube 15 such that the lower part of the segment tube 15 is broken without fail.

Fig.14 is a further embodiment of the invention where the test blood gathering equipment 1j is sealed with a closing part 17j at the bottom of the tube 2j, and a piercing needle 6i is implanted on the closing part 17j. This equipment 1j is used as follows. A segment tube is inserted into the tube 2j and pressed onto a piercing needle 6i. The blood in the segment tube flows into the tube 2j from a broken hole. The blood stored in the tube 2j is

moved to the test tube for testing. If required, the segment tube is broken with a hole and is taken out from the tube 2j, so that the blood to be tested within the tube may be directly pushed out into the test tube through the hole.

Depending upon such an equipment 1j, if the blood is splashed from the hole when the segment tube is broken by the piercing needle 6j, it is received by the closing part 17j not to leak outside. It is hygienic.

The test blood gathering equipment 1k is defined with grooves 18k, 18k vertically in the inner wall of a tube 2k, and a breaking piece 10k is inserted along the grooves at the middle part of the tube 2k. This tube 2k is also closed with a closing part 17k. Since the equipment 1k is provided with the breaking piece 10k at the middle part, the segment tube is broken vertically along length as described in the embodiments of Fig. 9 and Fig.10, and as the broken area is made large, the blood to be test in the segment tube can flow into the test tube 2k smoothly. The blood stored in the tube 2k is moved to the test tube for blood testings.

Fig.16 shows a further embodiment of the invention.

In the test blood gathering equipment 30, the tube 31 of a hard or half hard plastics is opened at the upper part 32, and is defined with a flowing hole 36 centrally of a bottom 33. The bottom 33 is provided with a closing piece 37 of the flowing hole 36 integrally with the bottom 33, and when the closing piece 37 is broken at a thin part 38, the flowing hole 36 is opened.

The closing piece 37 is formed with a plurality of wings 39 at its outer circumference, which prevent the closing piece 37 from breaking by contacting the circumferential wall during the centrifugal treatment of the test blood gathering equipment 30.

The closing piece 37 and the wings 39 may be formed as parts of the tube 31, or may be independent of the latter and fixed thereto with such as adhesive.

The breaking piece 34 is furnished at the middle part of the tube 31, and an attaching means of the piece 34 is inserted along the grooves 35.

The shown tube 31 is elliptic in the horizontal cross section but may be circular.

Fig.17 shows use of the test blood gathering equipment 30. If the segment tube 15 is pressed down into the tube 31, it is broken vertically by means of the breaking piece 34, and the blood to be tested in the tube flows out into the tube 31. The segment tube 15 is drawn out from the tube, and the equipment 30 is set on the centrifugal separator for separating the blood 40 into the blood plasma 41 and the packed red cell 42 (see Fig.18). It is not necessary that the segment tube 15 is urged into the tube 31, but the former naturally

goes into the latter due to the centrifugal force as said above.

The upper opening 32 of the tube 31 is closed with a thumb as shown in Fig.18, and the closing piece 37 is effected with an external force by such as a pincette, and a thin part 38 is broken to form a flowing hole 36. Subsequently, the opening 32 is released by gradually moving the thumb, and the packed red cell 42 at the lower part of the tube 31 drops from the flowing hole 36 into the test tube 50 storing the patient's blood 51 for carrying out the blood crossmatch.

If using the test blood gathering equipment 1 shown in Fig. 16, the process of setting the equipment 1 to the test tube may be omitted, and the blood stored in the tube 31 may be directly subjected to the centrifugal separation.

In dependence upon the test blood gathering equipment of the invention, since the segment tube is inserted into the tube and is opened by the breaking means provided within the tube, the operation is more easier than the foregoing manner which opens the tube by means of the scissors, and has no danger of the virus infection because of not touching of the blood to the operator at his hand.

Further, if the present equipment is attached with the same number as an identification number of the segment tube, the blood may be prevented from mis-dealing and other human probable errors.

Claims

1. A test blood gathering equipment which breaks a segment tube holding a blood to be tested, and offers the blood flowing from the broken segment tube to a blood testing, comprising a tube having a space for housing the segment tube therein; a means provided within the tube for breaking the segment tube inserting thereinto; and a hole for flowing the blood to be tested in the segment tube from the bottom of the tube.

2. The equipment as claimed in claim 1, provided with a piercing needle or a razor edge-shaped breaking piece for breaking the segment tube, and formed with a hole at the bottom of the tube for flowing the blood to be tested.

3. The equipment as claimed in claim 1, provided, at the middle part of the tube, with a razor edge-shaped breaking piece extending in diameter of the tube so as to break the segment tube in length by means of the breaking piece.

4. The equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is elliptic in a horizontal cross section, and the razor edge-shaped breaking piece is provided transversely with the large diameter of the tube.

5. A test blood gathering equipment which breaks a segment tube holding a blood to be tested, carries out a centrifugal separating treatment under a condition that the blood is stored in a tube, and offers the treated blood to a blood testing, comprising

a tube having a space for housing the segment tube therein;

a means provided within the tube for breaking the segment tube inserting thereinto;

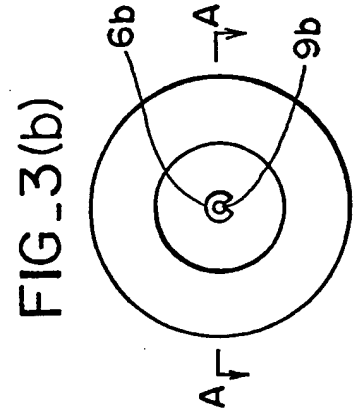
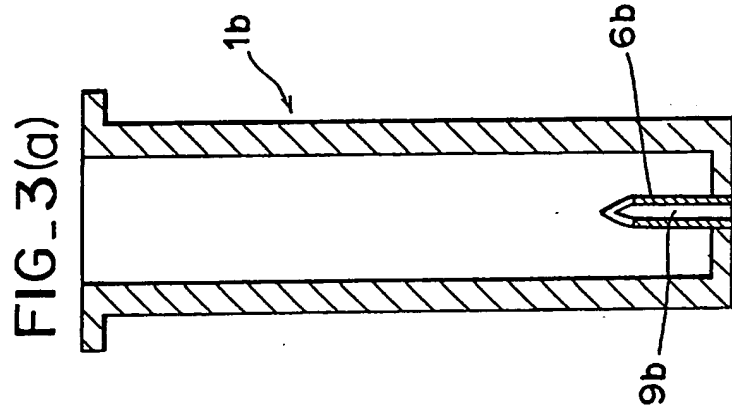
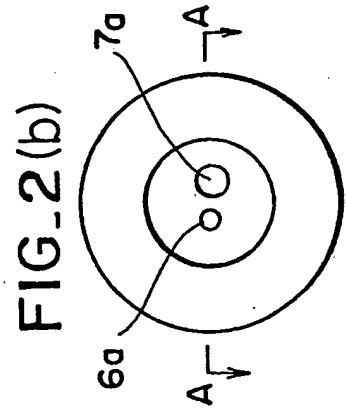
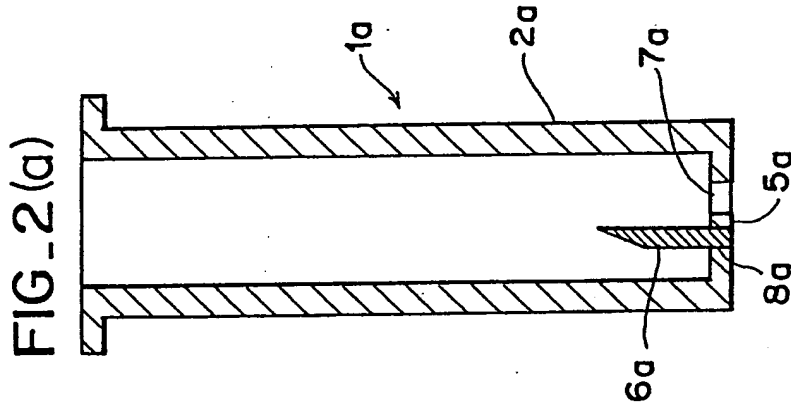
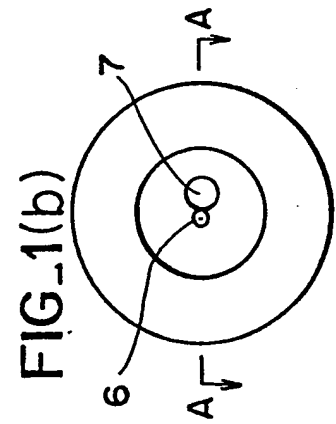
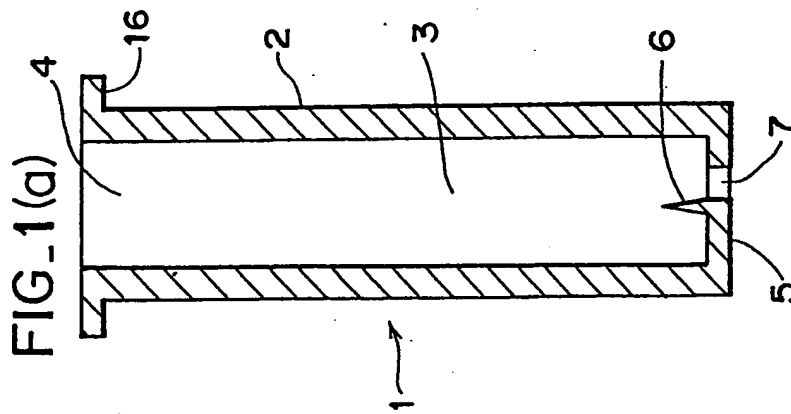
a hole for flowing a packed red cell deposited at the lower part of the centrifugal-treated blood having flowed into the tube from the segment tube; and

a closing means having a sealing member of the flowing hole and opening the flowing hole when the sealing member is broken at its thin part.

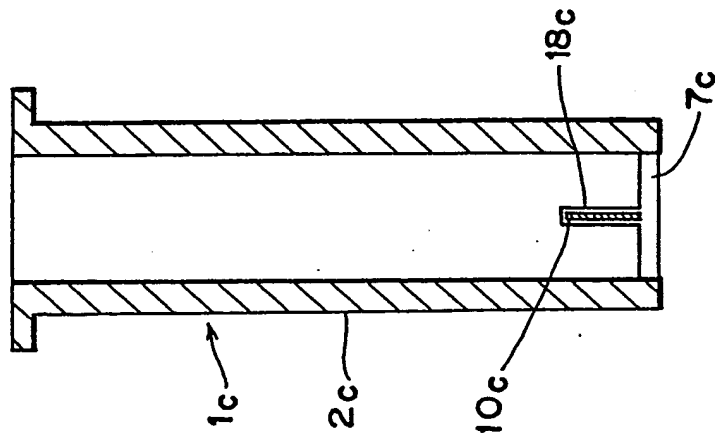
6. A test blood gathering equipment which breaks a segment tube holding a blood to be tested, and offers the blood flowing from the broken segment tube to a blood testing, comprising a tube having a space for housing the segment tube therein;

a means provided within the tube for breaking the segment tube inserting thereinto; and

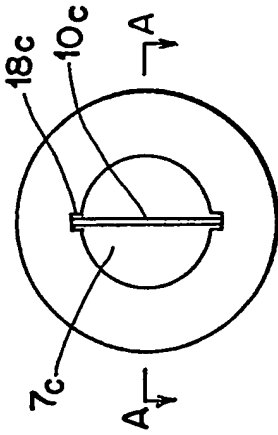
a closing means having a member for closing the bottom of the tube, and preventing the blood to be tested from splashing outside of the tube when opening the segment tube by means of the breaking means.



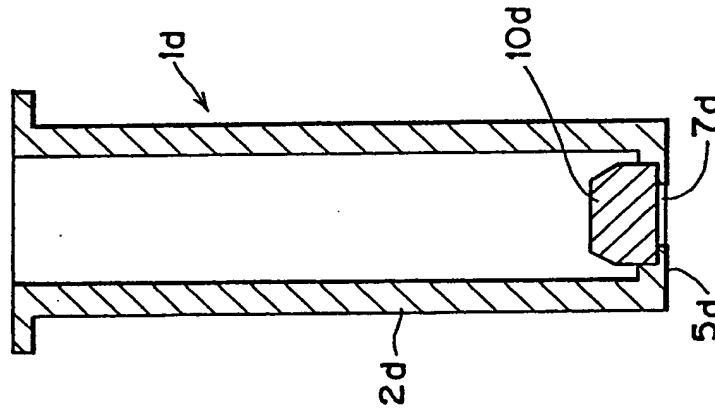
FIG_4(a)



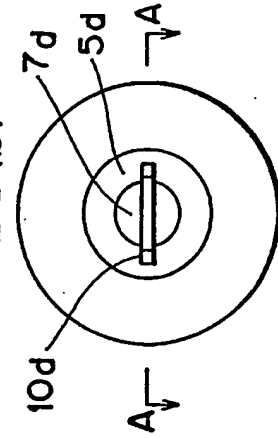
FIG_4(b)



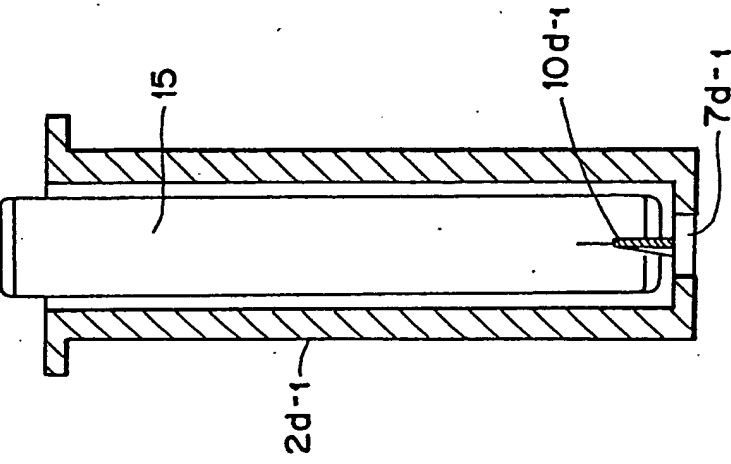
FIG_5(a)



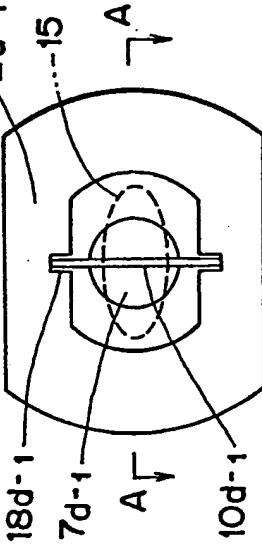
FIG_5(b)

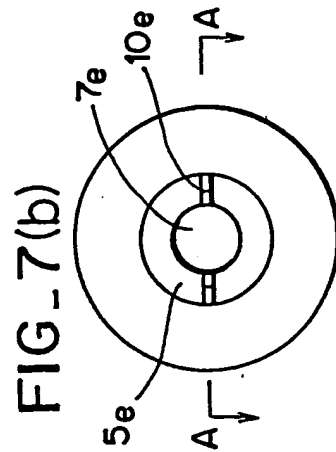
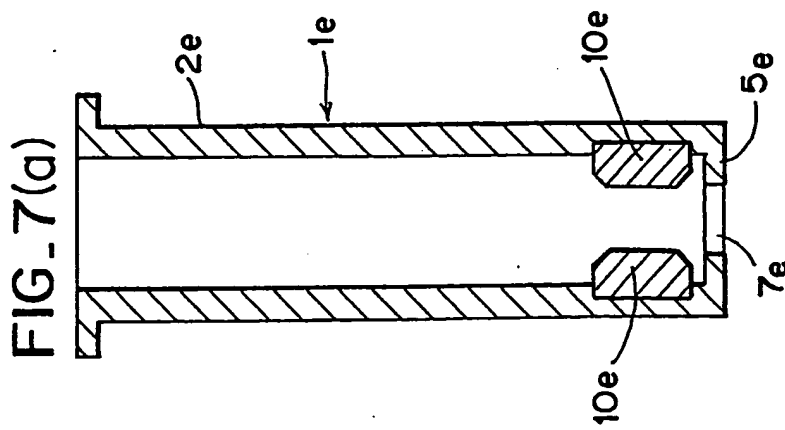
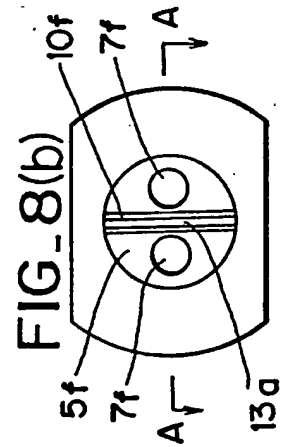
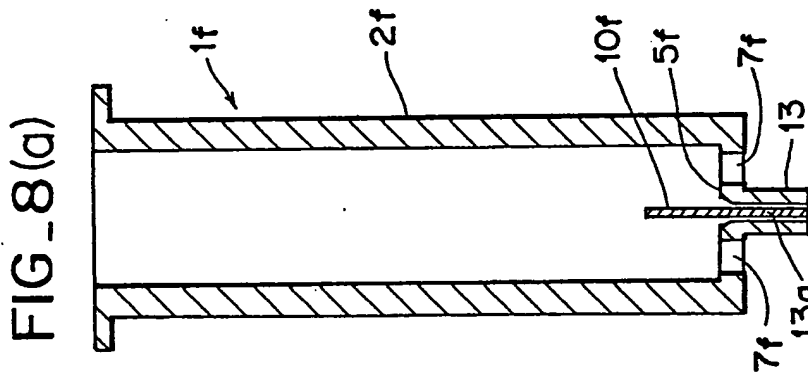
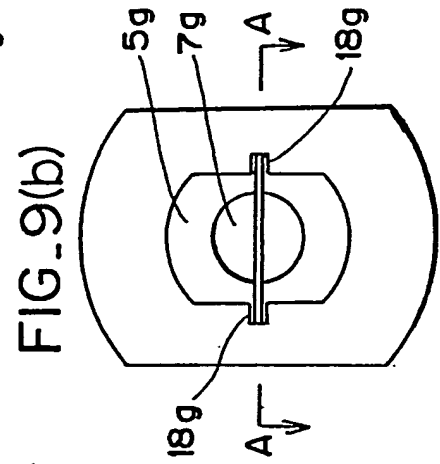
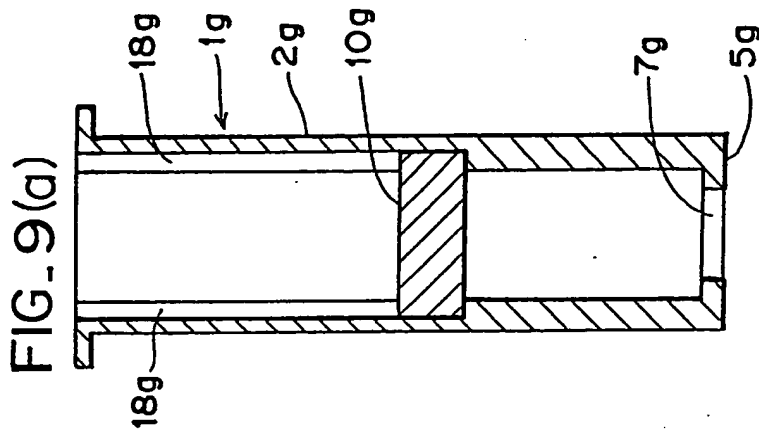


FIG_6(a)



FIG_6(b)





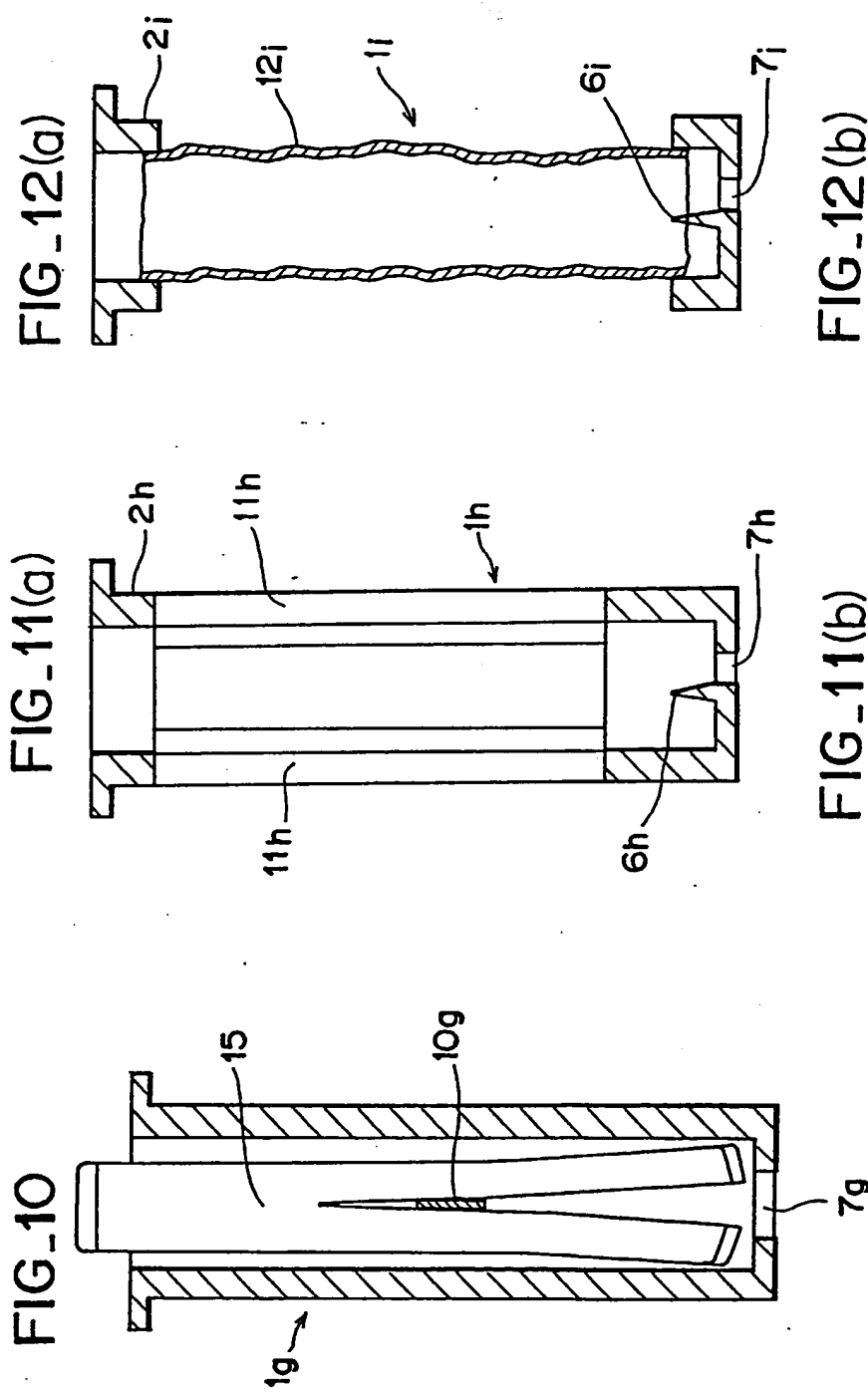


FIG. 13

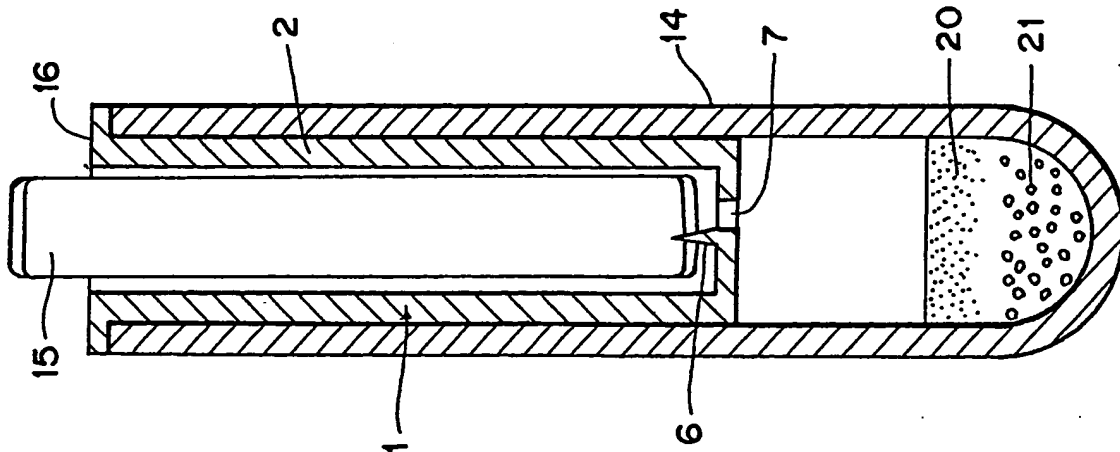


FIG. 14(a)

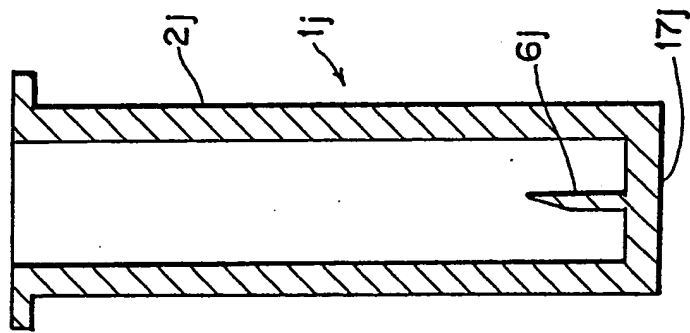


FIG. 14(b)

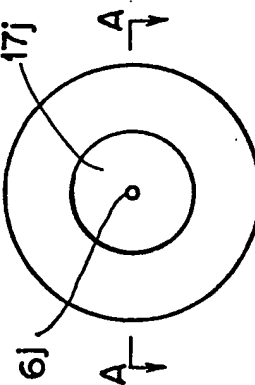


FIG. 15(a)

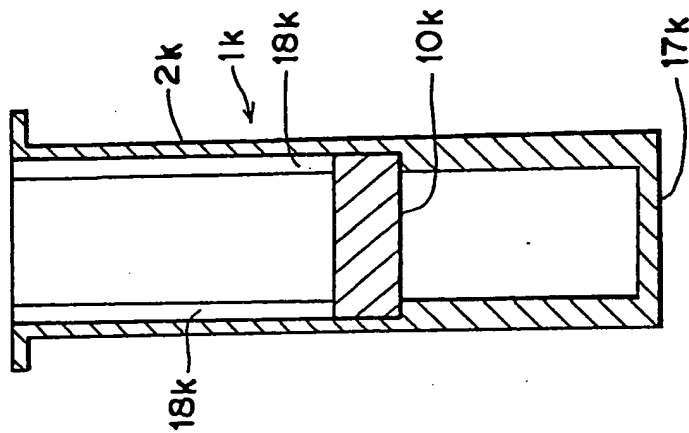
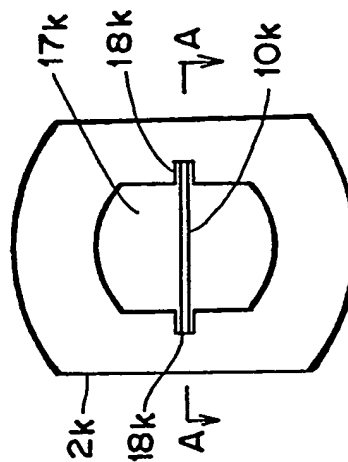
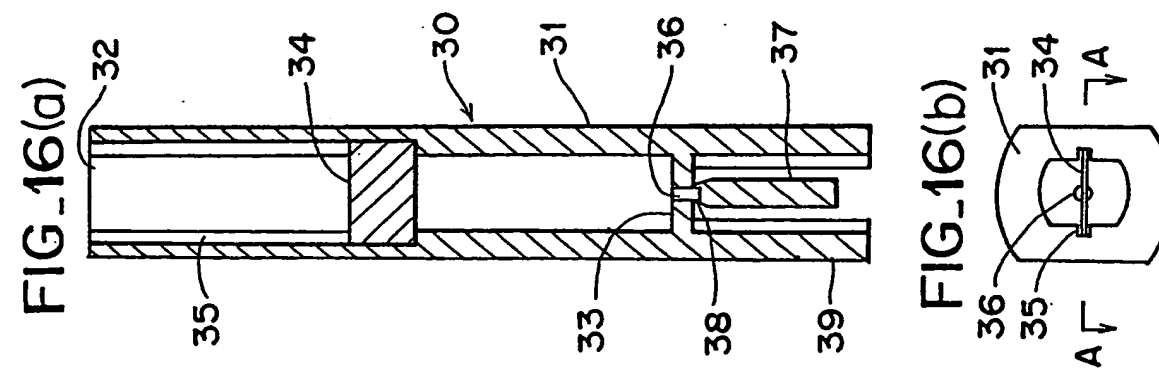
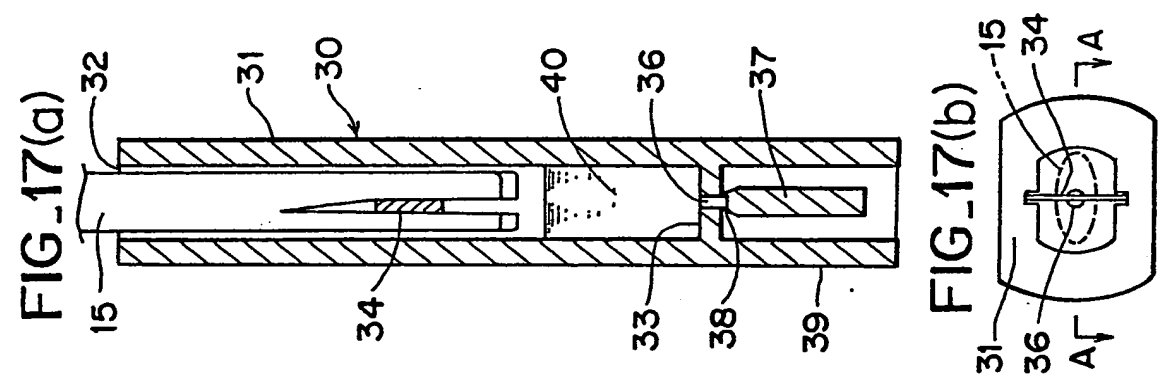
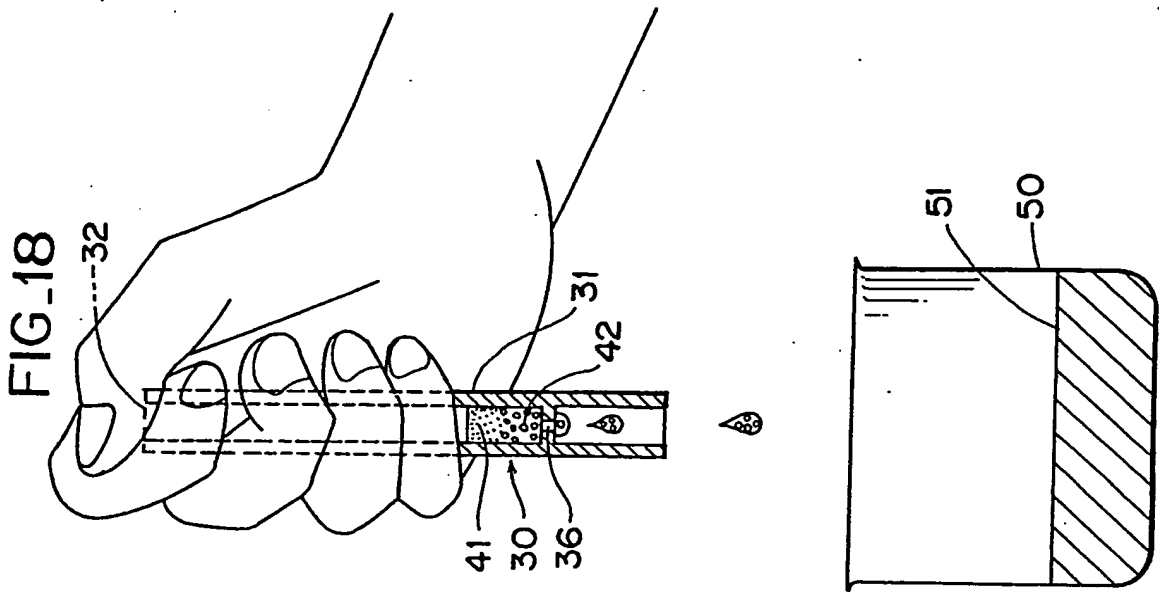


FIG. 15(b)







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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL5)
Y	WO-A-8302722 (K. BRANDENBERGER) * abstract; figures 1-3 *	1, 2	A61B5/14
A	---	3, 4	
Y	FR-A-2013819 (THE BATTTELLE DEVELOPMENT CORP.) * page 2, line 19 - page 3, line 37; figures 1-9 *	1, 2	
A	DE-A-2439218 (WALTER SARSTEDT KUNSTSTOFF-SPRITZGUSSEWERK) * page 6, line 17 - page 7, line 6 * * page 8, lines 9 - 15; figures 1-4 *	1, 5, 6	
A	US-A-4294247 (BAXTER TRAVENOL LABORATORIES INC.) * abstract; figures 1-6 *	5, 6	
A	EP-A-106290 (TERUMO KABUSHIKI KAISHA) * abstract; figures 1-3 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL5)
			A61B B01L A61M A61J B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12 OCTOBER 1989	Examiner HUNT B.W.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			